

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A hard multilayer coating according to claim 9, wherein each first coating layer has an average thickness of 10-2000nm while each second coating layer has an average thickness of 10-1000nm, and wherein said hard multilayer coating has a total thickness of 0.5-20 $\mu$ m.

4. (Previously Presented) A hard multilayer coating according to claim 9, wherein each second coating layer further includes  $(Ti_x Al_{1-x}) (C_y N_{1-y})$  wherein  $0.20 \leq x \leq 0.60$ ,  $0 \leq y \leq 0.5$ .

5.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A hard multilayer coating comprising first and second coating layers which are alternately superposed on each other, and a base material which is covered by said first and second coating layers,

wherein said first coating layer consists of a plurality of first coating layers and said second coating layer consists of at least one second coating layer,

wherein each first coating layer consists of  $(Ti_x Al_{1-x}) (C_y N_{1-y})$  wherein  $0.20 \leq x \leq 0.60$ ,  $0 \leq y \leq 0.5$ , while each second coating layer includes or consists of CrN,

and wherein one first coating layer constitutes an outermost layer of said first and second coating layers, while another first coating layer constitutes an innermost layer of said first and second coating layers, and is held in contact with said base material.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)